



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

June 20, 2013

The Honorable Matt Schultz
Secretary of State of Iowa
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit Senate File 446, an Act relating to appropriations for health and human services and including other related provisions and appropriations, providing penalties, and including effective, retroactive, and applicability date provisions.

Senate File 446 contains new language specifying the process for Iowa Medicaid reimbursement of an abortion procedure. This language applies to the remainder of this fiscal year, as well as fiscal year 2014 and 2015. This new legislative language represents a compromise between Democrats and Republicans in the legislature on the issue of whether taxpayer dollars should be used to reimburse hospitals or doctors for abortions. The new legislative language does not allow or require a governor to approve any procedure in advance. The decision about whether to undergo an abortion procedure continues to remain with the mother and her physician. With this new language, the legislature has asked a governor to approve or disapprove a bill submitted by a provider for taxpayer-funded Medicaid reimbursement after the procedure is performed.

Senate File 446 is approved on this date with the following exceptions, which I hereby disapprove.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 2, subsection 1. This item creates two additional long-term care resident's advocates positions. As of today, there are eight long-term care resident's advocates, serving the needs of Iowa's vulnerable seniors. Currently, the Department on Aging is in the process of an aging system redesign and is thoroughly reviewing state services. It is important to ensure that all new positions are consistent with the redesign so that Iowa can best serve the needs of aging Iowans. The effect of this disapproval shall cause the \$200,000 contained in this item to revert to the General Fund.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 3, subsection 8, lettered paragraph e. This item provides \$28,644 for the costs of an emergency medical services task force that is disapproved. Due to the fact that the new task force is not created, the money is not needed. Iowa is fortunate to have many dedicated professional and volunteer emergency medical services personnel. These Iowans give their time to provide critical care in emergency situations as first responders. The Iowa Department of Public Health helps provide oversight, assistance and acts as a regulatory body for the profession to ensure Iowans statewide get a high level of care. The Department of Public Health will continue to work to improve our system. An additional task force, growing the size, scope and cost of government is not an effective use of taxpayer dollars at this time. The effect of this disapproval shall cause the \$28,644 contained in this item to revert to the General Fund.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 4, subsection 2, lettered paragraph d. This item creates a redundant, overly burdensome mandate requiring the Iowa Veterans' Home to make expenditure reports monthly to the Legislative Services Agency for fiscal year 2014. I strongly support transparency efforts that publicly disclose how departments spend their resources and this information is already available within the State's accounting and budgeting systems.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 12, subsection 19, lettered paragraph e. This item requires the Department of Human Services to report on cost containment strategies. The Department of Human Services, Department of Management and the Legislative Services Agency meet on a monthly basis to determine projections for the Medical Assistance appropriation. Information relating to cost containment strategies is shared during these meetings. While I strongly support transparency efforts that publicly disclose how departments spend their resources, this information is already available within the State's accounting and budgeting systems.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 12, subsection 20. This item allocates \$8,715,473 for the waiting list for medical assistance home and community based services waivers. The effect of this disapproval shall cause the \$8,715,473 contained in this item to revert to the General Fund. Past history demonstrates that funding specifically earmarked to buy down the waiting list is not a successful long-term solution. Additionally, the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan will be implemented January 1, 2014. The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan will provide access for Iowans currently on the waiting list to high quality health care, including home and community based services.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 26, subsection 1. This item prohibits external approvals that are designed to ensure budget integrity, stability and predictability. Management must have the ability and flexibility to allocate resources where they are most effective and needed. In addition, this item creates a redundant, overly burdensome mandate requiring the department to report to the chairpersons and ranking members of the appropriations committees on a monthly basis. While I strongly support transparency efforts that publicly disclose how departments spend their resources, this information is already available within the State's accounting and budgeting systems.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 27, subsection 2. This item requires the Department of Human Services to report operational and program expenditures at least monthly to the Legislative Services Agency. While I strongly support transparency efforts that publicly disclose how departments spend their resources, this information is already available within the State's accounting and budgeting systems.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 27, subsection 5. This item transfers \$250,000 to the Department of Inspections and Appeals and creates two new FTEs to implement a new mental health advocate division within the Department of Inspections and Appeals. Currently, these advocates work at the county level. In the newly redesigned mental health and disability services system, it is best for these positions to remain at the local level where the services will be managed and delivered regionally. I look forward to continuing work with the General Assembly to implement the mental health and disability services redesign in a manner that best serves Iowans and serves our goals for an efficient and effective state government. The language creating a new mental health advocate division was an item that was disapproved in Senate File 406. The effect of this disapproval shall cause the \$250,000 contained in this item to revert to the General Fund.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 29, subsection 8. This item requires that all provider reimbursement rate increases in this section be used to increase the compensation and costs of employment for non-administrative staff. The Department of Human Services does not have the ability to monitor providers to determine compliance. In addition, it is not appropriate to direct provider increases in this manner. Providers are best equipped to manage their own budgets.

I am unable to approve the item designated as Section 49 in its entirety. This item amends the Iowa Code to require that any penalties imposed by the Director of the Iowa Department on Aging against a long-term care facility are automatically appropriated to the Office of the Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate. Currently, these funds are deposited in the General Fund. The Office of the Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate is funded by the General Fund. I oppose this

change which uses fines to automatically fund Office of the Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate because it sets a dangerous precedent and creates a conflict of interest.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Division X in its entirety. This item creates a new emergency medical services task force and report. Iowa is fortunate to have many dedicated professional and volunteer emergency medical services personnel. These Iowans give their time to provide critical care in emergency situations as first responders. The Iowa Department of Public Health helps provide oversight, assistance and acts as a regulatory body for the profession to ensure Iowans statewide receive a high level of care. The Department of Public Health will continue to work to improve our system. An additional task force, growing the size, scope and cost of government is not an effective use of taxpayer dollars at this time.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 83, paragraph 5, subparagraph b. This item causes funds deposited into the Autism Support Program Fund to not revert to the General Fund. It creates new, permanent carry-forward language which does not work to advance my goal of predictability and sustainability for government budgeting.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 84, paragraph 2. This item directs the Department of Human Services to enter into a sole-source contract without the benefit of a competitive bidding process. It is important to allow for a full review process and thoroughly plan new initiatives. In addition, competitively bid contracts ensure the best value for taxpayer dollars and that more people are served when this value is maximized.

I am unable to approve of the item designated as Division XIX in its entirety. This item creates a new committee to study how to provide care for people who are sexually aggressive, combative or have unmet psychiatric needs. My administration currently has a work group that is working together to propose constructive recommendations. The work group is open to public input. An additional committee is not needed at this time.

I am unable to approve of the item designated as the portion of Section 128 that amends 2011 Iowa Acts, chapter 63, section 36, subsection 4. This item would require a report to be given to the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint appropriations subcommittee on health and human services relating to changes in law or rules needed to implement telepharmacy on a state-wide basis. This report is not necessary due to the fact that this information is available upon request by the General Assembly.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 132, subsection 1. This item creates two new long-term care resident's advocates positions for fiscal year 2015. As of today, there are eight long-term care resident's advocates, serving the needs of Iowa's

vulnerable seniors. Currently, the Department on Aging is in the process of an aging system redesign and is thoroughly reviewing state services. It is important to ensure that all new positions are consistent with the redesign so that Iowa can best serve the needs of aging Iowans. The effect of this disapproval shall cause the \$100,000 contained in this item to revert to the General Fund.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 134, subsection 2, lettered paragraph d. This item creates a redundant, overly burdensome mandate requiring the Iowa Veterans' Home to make expenditure reports monthly to the Legislative Services Agency for fiscal year 2015. While I strongly support transparency efforts that publicly disclose how departments spend their resources, this information is already available within the State's accounting and budgeting systems.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 142, subsection 18, lettered paragraph d. This item requires the Department of Human Services to report on cost containment strategies for fiscal year 2015. The Department of Human Services, Department of Management and the Legislative Services Agency meet on a monthly basis to determine projections for the Medical Assistance appropriation. Information relating to cost containment strategies is shared during these meetings. While I strongly support transparency efforts that publicly disclose how departments spend their resources, this information is already available within the State's accounting and budgeting systems.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 156, subsection 1. This item prohibits external approvals that are designed to ensure budget integrity, stability and predictability. Management must have the ability and flexibility to allocate resources where they are most effective and needed. In addition, this item creates a redundant, overly burdensome mandate requiring the department to report to the chairpersons and ranking members of the appropriations committees on a monthly basis. While I strongly support transparency efforts that publicly disclose how departments spend their resources, this information is already available within the State's accounting and budgeting systems.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 157, subsection 2. This item requires the Department of Human Services to report operational and program expenditures at least monthly to the Legislative Services Agency for fiscal year 2015. While I strongly support transparency efforts that publicly disclose how departments spend their resources, this information is already available within the State's accounting and budgeting systems.

I am unable to approve the designated portion of the item designated as Section 157, subsection 5. This item transfers \$125,000 to the Department of Inspections and Appeals for two new FTEs to implement a new mental health advocate division within the Department of Inspections and Appeals. Currently, these advocates work at the county level. In the newly redesigned mental health and disability services system, it is best for these positions to remain at the local level where the services will be managed and delivered regionally. I look forward to continuing work with the General Assembly to implement the mental health and disability services redesign in a manner that best serves Iowans and serves our goals for an efficient and effective state government. The language creating a new mental health advocate division was an item that was disapproved in Senate File 406. The effect of this disapproval shall cause the \$125,000 contained in this item to revert to the General Fund.

For the above reasons, I respectfully disapprove the designated items in accordance with Amendment IV of the Amendments of 1968 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa. All other items in Senate File 446 are hereby approved as of this date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terry E. Branstad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" at the end.

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
Governor